

Rules Sheriff Has Right on Arsenal Land

Local authorities have the right to go upon the U. S. Arsenal property to arrest persons who have violated the laws of the state of Illinois and to serve civil and criminal processes.

That's the opinion of Latham Castle, attorney general of the state of Illinois. He gave this opinion to State's Attorney Frank H. Masters, Jr., who asked for it after receiving a written request from Sheriff Roy C. Doerfler for an answer.

CASTLE quoted various authorities and in conclusion said, "From the foregoing it would therefore appear clear that local authorities would have jurisdiction to serve civil and criminal process, issued under authority of the state of Illinois, on land acquired by the U. S. for arsenal purposes and ceded to the U. S. by the state.

"It would also appear clear that under the foregoing statutory provisions, the local authorities would have the right to go upon said property ceded to the U. S. for the purpose of arresting persons who have violated the laws of the state of Illinois."

SHERIFF DOERFLER asked for this opinion inasmuch as on one occasion when a guard was stabbed at the arsenal, the local sheriff's office was contacted immediately and asked to handle an investigation. On the second occasion when a worker was stabbed or stabbed himself, the local deputies were not asked to make an investigation and were told that they had no authority inasmuch as the act took place on U. S. government property.

The sheriff said he sought the opinion so as to have it clear in his mind who is to handle such cases, and who has the authority to do so.